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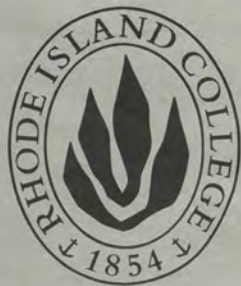
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WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Vol. 20 Issue 15

Circulation over 42,000

May 8, 2000

College greets 2000 Commencement season

1,000 to receive degrees at commencement exercises

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

More than 1,000 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas during the 2000 commencement exercises. Once again this year, the esplanade in front of the New Building will burgeon with activity and excitement as an anticipated 10,000 or more attendees — undergraduates, their friends and families, and faculty, staff and friends of the College — gather to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments.

Honorary doctorate of pedagogy recipient and national education policy leader Gordon M. Ambach, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, will deliver the undergraduate commencement address at the exercises, which are scheduled for Saturday, May 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Millard D. Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, will deliver the graduate commencement address to about 300 graduate students and their guests on Thursday, May 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building.

Fuller will receive an honorary doctorate of humanities.

Gordon M. Ambach Doctorate of Pedagogy

Ambach, a product of the Providence Public School System and a graduate of Hope High School, has served as executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers since July, 1987. In this national leadership role, Ambach has led the organization's efforts to promote federal policy on early childhood and family education, school restructuring, youth apprenticeships, learning technology, standards and assessments, the improvement of teacher education programs under the Higher Education Act, and

See Commencement, page 8



ARRIVING FOR CAP AND GOWN ceremonies at Roberts Hall on May 3 are Robin Lamontagne (left) and Lavonne Nkomo, vice president of the senior class. For more on this kick-off event of the commencement season, see pages 6 & 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Seniors, awardees recognized at Cap 'n Gown

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Applause punctuated the Cap and Gown Convocation throughout the ceremony on May 3 in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall as Rhode Island College honored its outstanding graduating seniors.

Some 39 awards for achievement were presented to 46 students, some of whom received more than one award.

The colorful ceremony saw the seniors decked out for the first time in their academic regalia and marked the beginning of the commencement season at RIC, now in its 146th year. Undergraduate commencement exercises will be held Saturday, May 20 on the Mount Pleasant campus.

College President John Nazarian welcomed the seniors, their families, friends, College administrators, faculty and staff "to the final Cap and Gown Convocation to be held in the 20th century."

"Today is a day for both celebration and reflection as we look back on the long journey of the Class of 2000," said Nazarian. "Most of all, it is a day to share in the joy of accomplishment."

He said that the graduating seniors have persevered in achieving

See Cap and Gown, page 7

Where are they now...?

Tim Warren '83 likes to be on top of things — like mountains. A tall, handsome guy with broad shoulders and narrow hips, he looks like the athlete he is. At Rhode Island College he was on the cross-country and track teams. A native of Richmond, RI, he lived on campus all four years and served as a resident assistant in Willard Hall. After graduation he attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa, graduating in 1986. A year later he established a practice in Warwick.

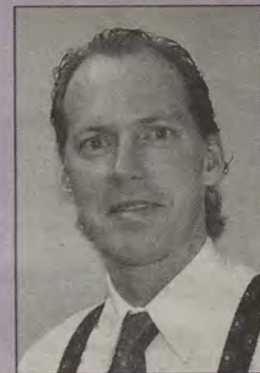
His family had always been active in hiking and climbing, and after his studies at Palmer, he rekindled that interest by backpacking through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, often with his eight-year-old son Kurt. He also got involved in

triathlons, grueling events that require speed in swimming and biking as well as running. And he ran a few marathons.

But the mountains kept calling him back. He climbed "most of the challenging peaks in New England;" the Sierra Nevadas (of California); the Rockies and the Grand Canyon.

In 1998, he decided to tackle Mt. Rainier, at 14,410 feet, the highest of the Cascades in Washington state. "Rainier is perfect for training," Warren said recently in his Warwick office. "It's just half the height of Everest but has much the same terrain."

A week and a half seminar on Rainier gave him experience traveling over glaciers, scaling rock faces and — that magical word for a mountain climber — "summit-



ing."

Last July Warren put all those skills to the test on 19,340-foot Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The six-day ascent was fraught with altitude sick-

ness but for Warren it was exhilarating.

What was the best part?

"Getting to know the porters who helped us ... and that beer back at the hotel after having reached the

See Where are they now?, page 8

The Way We Were...

This popular item in What's News continues in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each, such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.



GATHERING FLOWERS IN MAY: For this first issue of May, 2000 we look back to a May Day in 1957, when it was the tradition at Rhode Island College of Education for students to go out into the fields surrounding the campus in downtown Providence and gather daisies. The daisies were woven into a chain that was carried in a procession during festivities that included dancing around a May pole. (file photo)

Save the date!

Dedication of the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

Sept. 15, 2000

Afternoon ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours

This event will mark the beginning of a year-long dedicatory season featuring special performances and events.
Watch What's News for details.



SECRETARIES' DAY, April 26, was marked by a breakfast reception for the College's secretaries in Faculty Center. Above from left are: Dianne Hassell of arts and sciences, College President John Nazarian, Bernadette Doyle of arts and sciences and Susan Soltys of anthropology/geography. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Focus on Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items of information about their professional endeavors to What's News, Office of News and Public Relations, 300 Roberts Hall or email them to csousa@ric.edu.

Nancy L. Cloud, assistant professor of special education, recently attended and presented at a professional development colloquium held at the TESOL Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Her presentation focused on a chapter she wrote for the recently released TESOL publication, *Implementing the ESL Standards for Pre-K-12 Students through Teacher Education*. Her chapter, "Incorporating ESL Standards into Teacher Education Programs: Ideas for Teacher Educators," serves as the opening chapter for that volume. While at the convention, she also attended meetings of the editorial board of the *TESOL Journal*, having served on its editorial board for the past six years.



Marguerite M. Brown, director of development, presented at the eighth annual CASE-SIRI conference on "Managing Your Institutionally Related Foundation: Strategies for the 21st Century" held recently in San Francisco. Her presentation, entitled "The Legal Landscape," addressed institutional relations, foundations and the law.

Len West, adjunct professor in elementary education and educational studies, presented a science education workshop about meteorite impact effects on earth's natural environment with Marguerite Hardisty, education coordinator of the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Association, at the Barrington YMCA recently. They offered video, still photographs, printed materials and hands-on comparative examination of earth rocks and space rocks from throughout the solar sys-

tem.

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, professor of anthropology and director of general education, spoke March 30 in Washington, D.C., at a State Department conference, "Sudan: Conflicted Identities," that was designed to review the U.S. government's foreign policy regarding Sudan. Her remarks focused on the future of the Islamist government in that country.



In early April, she and **Richard Lobban**, professor of anthropology, and two RIC students, **Kevin DeJesus** and **Paul Khalil Saucier**, presented papers at the 19th annual Sudan Studies Association conference at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Both professors are founders of the association and Richard is its executive director. Carolyn serves on its board of directors.

Fluehr-Lobban presented a paper April 14 on "Globalization of Research and International Standards of Ethics in Anthropology" at the New York Academy of Sciences conference on "Ethical Dilemmas for Anthropology in the 21st Century."

Two members of the elementary education faculty presented papers at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference held in Chicago, Ill. recently. **Lorraine M. Cotti**, assistant professor, presented "Problem-solving Mini-books: Math and Language Activities for Every Child." **Lisa Owen**, assistant professor, presented "Creating Units: A True Integration of Four Subject Areas."

**The next issue of What's News
will be in June.**

**Deadline for submission of copy, photos, etc.
is Friday, May 26.**

**Story ideas are welcome.
Call 401-456-8090 or email smurphy@ric.edu.**

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Editor: Shelly Murphy

Associate Editor: George LaTour

Staff: Pauline McCartney, Word Processing Supervisor; Gordon E. Rowley, Photographer; Cynthia L. Sousa, Writer/Technical Assistant

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Once Upon A Time volunteer reading program expands to pre-school centers

by Shelly Murphy
What's News Editor

Flowers and spring. Two topics children are more likely to want to experience outdoors than to talk about indoors. Unless, it's a Friday morning at the Pawtucket Day Nursery. For Friday is the day the "reader" from the *Once Upon A Time* program comes. And, it doesn't hurt that it's raining when Derrith Schwarz '99 arrives at the Center with her book bag in hand on a recent Friday.

The pre-schoolers eagerly gather around Schwarz and settle down to listen to her read several books about flowers and spring. A couple of the children compete for her attention, eager for her to acknowledge their answers to the questions she poses about the stories. Next, the children hustle to find a seat at a table to color a handout of flowers that Schwarz has brought with her.

This scene is similar to one that has been played out across the state weekly for three years since the *Once Upon A Time* program, which is based at Rhode Island College, began in 1997 in one home-based daycare facility in Coventry.

The main difference with this scene is that the pre-schoolers in this bright room are not in a home-based daycare facility. They are among about 140 children, ranging from 18 months to eight years old, enrolled at the Pawtucket Day Nursery.

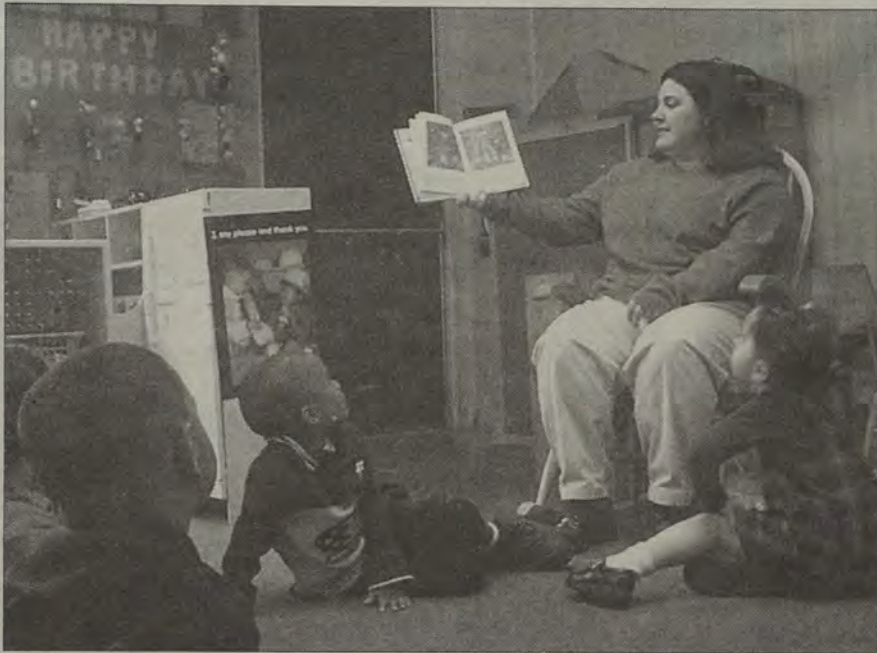
A few months ago, the program achieved its goal of expanding from home-based daycare centers to other types of licensed daycare centers. *Once Upon A Time* now places about 45 volunteer readers in a total of 37 centers, including 13 pre-school/daycare centers, in more than a dozen Rhode Island communities.

Schwarz's visits to the Center mark another milestone for *Once Upon A Time*.

It is the first time the program has placed a RIC alum, not a student, in a center.

"In our five-year strategic plan, we outlined a pilot project involving RIC alumni as both volunteer readers and mentors to undergraduate student volunteers," said Liz Garofalo, coordinator for *Once Upon A Time*. Funding for her position is included in a state allocation for the program. Continued funding for the program is included in the proposed state budget for next year.

"Just as we were doing the preliminary planning for this program, Derrith heard of it and wanted to get involved. At the same time, the Pawtucket Day Nursery expressed inter-



ONCE UPON A TIME: Volunteer Derrith Schwarz '99 reads to children at the Pawtucket Day Nursery. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

est in the program which they learned about from Marlene Lopes. It was a perfect match." Lopes is special collections librarian at RIC and a member of the board at Pawtucket Day Nursery.

It's appropriate that the Pawtucket Day Nursery is one of the early centers to participate in this RIC initiative. The Center, which opened in 1892, is accustomed to being a pioneer, and to working with RIC. It holds Rhode Island daycare license #1, and two individuals key to the development of the center have RIC ties.

S. Elizabeth Campbell, former professor and coordinator of student teaching at RIC; and Mary Thorp, long-time director of the Henry Barnard School, served as educational consultants to the Center.

"Reading is extremely important to us," said Barbara Cavallaro, RIC

sible so we always want to do more."

So when the opportunity came to have Schwarz volunteer to read at the Center, they didn't hesitate. Schwarz, who earned her bachelors in English literature and plans to pursue a masters in library science, has already become a fixture at the Center.

She says it is rewarding, citing how it feels when the pre-schoolers' excited voices greet her as she approaches ("The story lady is coming!") and when they tell her they went with a parent to the library to check out a book she read to them.

Schwarz, who has eight years experience as a nanny and operated a nanny placement service until recently, enjoys the interaction with the children. "I had some extra time and wanted to volunteer. This ties in my love of literature and my interests in literacy and working with

children. I didn't want to be a nanny anymore, but I missed the kids. This allows me to be silly with the kids, to practice different voices, but I don't have to be 'on' all the time like I did when I was a nanny," Schwarz said.

She feels she is contributing something important. "These kids clearly read. They know half the books I bring to them. But it's good for them to have a special time set aside when they specifically focus

on books."

For more information about *Once Upon A Time*, contact Garofalo at 401-456-8877.



**What's
News**

Firm to recruit substitute teachers

A private East Providence firm will be on the Rhode Island College campus Thursday, May 11, in the Career Development Center in Craig-Lee Hall to recruit for substitute teachers.

Sherry A. Rianna, who attended RIC in the early 1980s and is now the marketing director for Personnel & Payroll, Inc., a division of Mega Transportation Group, says they are looking for graduating seniors who are certified to teach as well as any certified alumni, including retired teachers, to serve as substitute teachers in Rhode Island schools.

Substitute teachers they place can work as much or as little as they want, says Rianna.

She says her firm generally "will pay better than the school departments" for a substitute teacher and offers health and dental coverage after 90 days, which school departments do not offer substitute teachers unless they become permanent substitutes.

This is a new venture for the firm which, in the past, recruited drivers for various companies. Looking to expand their services, they surveyed school superintendents in the state and received "a great response" from the superintendents who expressed their willingness to use the firm's services due to the difficulty in finding substitute teachers, says Rianna.

Personnel & Payroll also will recruit on other campuses after its visit to RIC.

Summer Program for Young Writers

The Rhode Island Writing Project is offering three, two-week programs for young writers in July. Programs for grades one-three, four-six, and seven-nine will be held five days a week in the Henry Barnard School, from 9 a.m. to noon, during the second and third weeks of July. Contact the Writing Project at 401-456-8668 for registration forms and further information. Cost for the two-week program is \$100.

Bookstore hours for Commencement

The Campus Store will be open for the graduate commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 18, until 8 p.m. and also for the undergraduate commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



AFTER HEARING A STORY children in the Pawtucket Day Nursery work on a related art project. Clockwise from right are: teacher Ja'Net Hall; Adrin Morris, 4; Serena Silveira, 4; twins Jessie and Jemon Fernandes, 3; and Aryton Amado, 5. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

masters '83, center executive director. "Many of our children come from families where English is a second language and they don't read much. We try to do as much reading as pos-

Foundation & Alumni Affairs

Alumni News



Ellie O'Neill
Director,
Alumni Affairs

The nominating committee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors has prepared a slate of officers and directors. According to the Association's bylaws, the director of Alumni Affairs must notify all active alumni by

May 15 of the proposed slate, at-large nominees, and the date, time and location of the June board meeting during which the election of officers and directors occurs.

• The proposed slate of officers for 2000-2002 is:

President: Judy Roy '74, Cumberland; Vice president: Miguel Lopes '71, Portsmouth; Treasurer: Ellen Kitchell '81, Cranston; Secretary: Marianne Maynard Needham '59, East Greenwich; and Past President: Paul Bourget '69, Woonsocket

• Proposed for a two-year term are:
Jason Anthony '99, Cranston; Mary Jane Lepley Brickach '63, Portsmouth; Laura Field '93, Providence; Lori Martin '83, Cranston; Mary Paulino '77, East Greenwich; and Bernard Trembl III '93, Johnston

• Proposed for a one-year term are:
Donald Babbitt '59, Riverside and Joe Roch '90, Cranston

• Proposed at-large directors, for a one-year term:

Ryan Theroux '99, Woonsocket and Deborah Suggs '90, Cranston

• Members returning to the board (term expires June 2001) are:

Lucia Napoli Amado '93, Hope; Suzanne Augenstein '97, North Scituate; Phyllis Hunt '80, Seekonk; and Joe Parfenchuck '54, Pawtucket

• I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following alumni who are completing their terms of service on the Alumni Board. Collectively, these dedicated alumni have served almost 40 years. We are grateful for the work they have done on behalf of all the alumni.

Arthur Campbell '63, Wakefield; Syd Cohen '40, Cranston; Inez Cote '76, Narragansett; Norma DiLibero '81; Maggie Moy '86, Newport; and Irene Rupert '95, Warwick.

The annual meeting is scheduled for June 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni House. For more information, call the office at 401-456-8086.

Just a few reminders for all our alumni:

• May 11, Alumni Awards dinner in Donovan Dining Center at 5:30 p.m. We expect a large crowd to honor our five alumni award winners and 32 honor roll recipients. Call 401-456-8086 for reservations.

• May 18-20, the Class of 1950 is celebrating its Golden Anniversary with many special events.

• May 24, Homecoming committee meeting at noon at Alumni House

• June 1, deadline for scholarship applications

• June 21, Alumni Association annual meeting

• June 30, end of our fiscal year

It has been a very good year for the Alumni Association. We continue to grow and to expand our programs and outreach to all our alumni. We encourage you to keep in touch through phone, fax and email (alumni@ric.edu), and invite you to visit us on the web at www.ric.edu where you will find our calendar of events. Happy summer and we'll see you in the fall at Homecoming '2000 - Come Back to RIC! scheduled for Oct. 13-14.

Young Alumni Group host tour of John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts



HISTORICAL PILLARS: Several members of the Young Alumni Group pause at the entrance of the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts during an April 18 tour led by College President John Nazarian. The architectural columns behind them are from the former Rhode Island College of Education building which was located where Providence Place Mall stands now. Left to right are Kathleen Mattingly Billings '95, Michele O'Brien '93, Laura Field '93, Joe Roch '90.

Spring phone-a-thon raises \$42,500

Student callers raised about \$42,500 in pledges from more than 1,350 RIC alumni in the spring phone-a-thon for the RIC Annual Fund. Eighteen Rhode Island College students, who called from the phone center in Alumni House, staffed the phone-a-thon.

Pledge contributions to the RIC Annual Fund are unrestricted and provide vital funding for RIC Alumni Association scholarships (\$85,000 was awarded last year); faculty research and development grants; and alumni-related pro-

grams such as Homecoming, class reunions, the Alumni Awards and Honor Roll Dinner, and the *Alumni Magazine*.

In order to be included in the *Annual Report of Gifts* published this fall, pledge contributions should be sent by June 30, 2000. The RIC Annual Fund office is located in Alumni House, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908. For more information, call Nancy Hoogasian, annual fund director 401-456-8827.

Join us!
Alumni Awards Dinner
Thursday, May 11

Donovan Dining Center
5:30 p.m.

Call 401-456-8086
for reservations.



GENEROUS AGENTS: Members of the Rhode Island Association of Insurance Agents (RIAIA) presented a check for \$3,000 to College President John Nazarian on April 27. The association has been a major sponsor for the annual RIC Foundation Golf Day for the past 11 years. From left are: Brian Hunter; Everett Federici; Theresa Saford; Robert Koehler, president of the RIAIA; Nazarian; Marguerite M. Brown, director of development; and John Fitta, assistant vice president for finance and controller. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

With RIC diploma as key, DeJesus plans to open many doors to achieve his goal

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

A 29-year-old graduating senior at Rhode Island College, who is known as a human rights activist, has been awarded a full scholarship to pursue a master's degree in anthropology at the American University in Cairo starting in September.

Kevin DeJesus of Providence also has been awarded a summer scholarship to study Arabic as part of the language requirement for his master's. That scholarship — at the Arabic Language Institute at American University — starts June 2.

With a master of arts in hand as well as a graduate diploma for studies in forced migration and refugee populations, DeJesus plans to pursue a doctorate at American University's "largest human rights center for study and research in the Middle East and Africa."

That being accomplished, the geography-anthropology double major at RIC plans to follow a career of research, teaching and work in the field of human rights.

"He's one of the great stories that come out of this College," says Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, professor of anthropology and director of general education.

"Kevin is a committed human being, dedicated to improving the human condition," a goal he'll achieve initially through academics, says Fluehr-Lobban, who is considered a mentor of DeJesus.

And DeJesus credits her and her husband, Richard A. Lobban, also a professor of anthropology, for "helping me realize my dreams of working in this area (of human rights)."

His master's degree scholarship is the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Graduate Scholarship,



ON HIS WAY: Senior Kevin DeJesus has received a full scholarship at American University in Cairo for a master's degree in anthropology. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

named after a late Japanese phil-anthropist.

And leadership is something DeJesus has displayed right along in the field of human rights.

In 1998 he was named as one of two volunteers nationally selected by the Unitarian Universalist Volunteer Network as an "outstanding local representative" for his service as chair of the First Unitarian Church's World Affairs Committee.

While completing studies in his first major of geography, DeJesus traveled to Cape Verde where he studied the political rights of migrant laborers as part of his geography honors project. Then he

"He's one of the great stories that come out of this College." — Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

went to the American University in Beirut — one of the few Americans allowed back into that violence-racked city — for an internship with an organization serving refugee populations in Lebanon.

He returned to RIC, took on the major study of anthropology and this May 20 will close the undergraduate chapter in his college life, a chapter that included serving as a special projects assistant in the Office of Student Activities, a resident assistant in Thorp Hall, a member of Student Parliament and Student Community Government, and president of the Geographic Association.

With a RIC diploma as his key, Kevin DeJesus will open who knows what doors in his quest to improve the human condition.



PANELISTS: On April 26, the Committee on General Education held its Spring Forum entitled "Universal Rights of the Child: Children and Families Under Siege." Above, in a panel discussion on children and violence are (from left) Liberian human rights activist Abraham Williams; Laura Khoury, assistant professor of sociology; Steve Imber, professor of special education; and panelist and guest speaker Lamia Shehadeh, of Harvard University, who spoke on "Women and Children During the Lebanese Civil War." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC Commencement Season 2000



Commencement Gala

Friday, May 19
6:30 p.m.

Donovan Dining Center
For tickets, call 401-456-8022

Graduate Ceremony

Thursday, May 18
5:30 p.m.; New Building

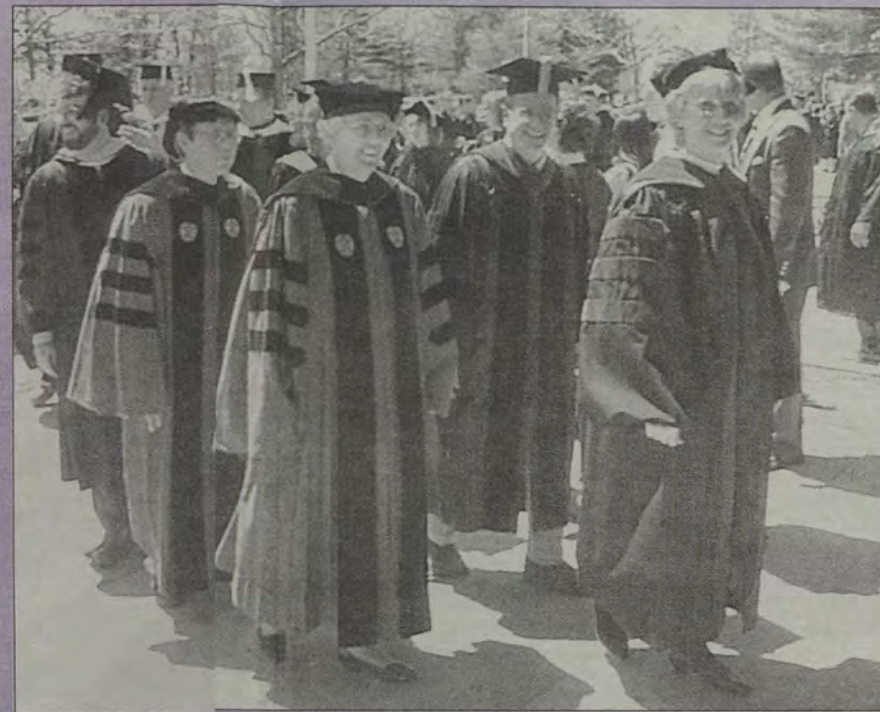
Undergraduate Ceremony

Saturday, May 20
9:30 a.m.; Campus esplanade

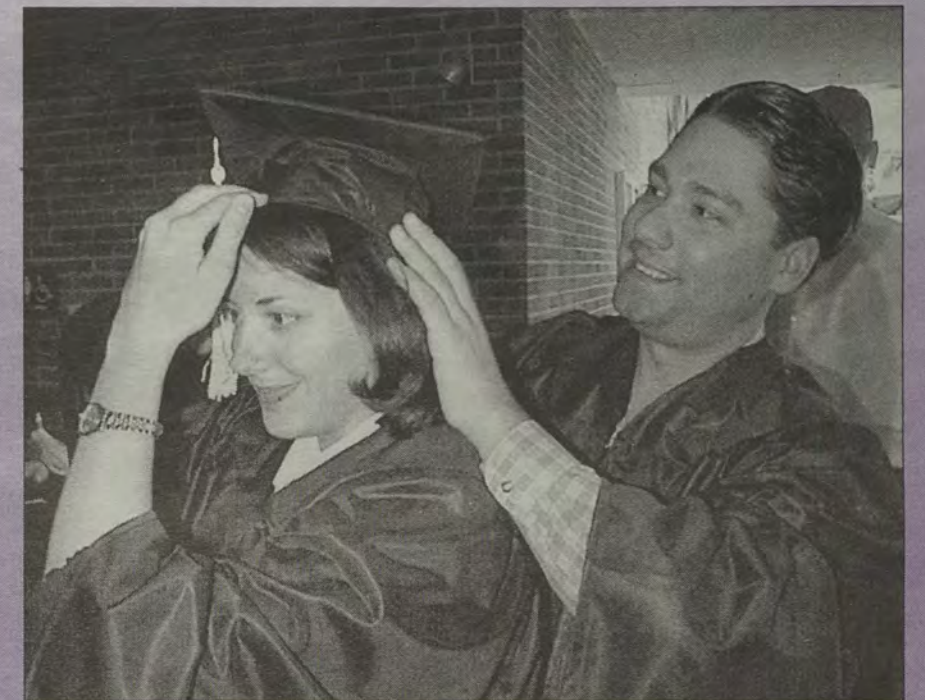
Accolades, awards bestowed on seniors at Cap 'n Gown Convocation



HAPPY GRADS: (l to r) Amanda Marzullo, Michelle Graham, Chris DiFazio, Yaviri Grosso and Sharon Brouillard.



DECKED OUT in their academic regalia, the faculty proceeds into Robert Hall.



PERFECT FIT: Danielle Menard tries her cap assisted by Andrew Galuska.



CHOSEN BY THE SENIORS, Robert 'Bob' Castiglione, professor of philosophy, delivers the main address.



CAP AND GOWN AWARDS and their winners: Studio Art, Christopher Spadazzi; W. Christina Carlson (Biology), Kristy Brouillard and Julie McMurphy; Eleanor M. McMahon (College Honors Program), Kristen Williams; Communications Achievement (Public and Professional), Julie Ciaramello; Educational Studies Senior, Scott Turner; Elementary Education Faculty, Corinne Zisiades and Doreen Shottok; Jean Garrigue (English), Kristen Williams; Film Studies Program Faculty, Robert Albanese III; Rose Butler Browne (RIC Foundation), Symbu N'Tow; Bertha Christina Andrews Emin (Outstanding Achievement), Jennifer Butler, (Scholastic Excellence), Deborah Martin-Estrella; Health and Physical Education Faculty Senior, Kristy Siravo; Claiborne deB. Pell (History), Patricia Matusow; Evelyn Walsh Prize (History), Sarah Diggle; John E. Hetherman (Intercollegiate Athletics), Jennifer Cook; John Silva Memorial Scholastic (Center for Management & Technology), Rosa Colon; Outstanding Student (Center for Management & Technology), Lori Streker (Accounting), Sharon DiSpirito (Computer Information Systems), Adam Freedman (Industrial Technology), Cynthia Kaplan (Marketing); Richard A. Howland Computer Science, Ilana Chernov; Christopher R. Mitchell (Mathematics and Computer Science), Alaysha Cotton; Nelson A. Guertin Memorial (Modern Languages-Spanish), Dora Velazquez; Peter Jeffrey Archambault Memorial (Music, Theatre and Dance), Tania Rocha; Cantor Jacob Hohenemser (Music, Theatre and Dance), Christopher Mink and Christine Noel; Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education, Christine Noel; RIC Theatre, Laura Ames; Nursing Faculty Undergraduate, Elise Chapman, Undergraduate Registered Nurse, Christine Gadbois; American Institute of Chemists, Michele Castagliuolo; Ronald J. Boruch (Physical Sciences), Timothy Pernini; Departmental Physics, William Love; John H. Chafee (Political Science), Lavonne Nkomo; Herbert R. Winter-Academic Excellence (Political Science), Kelly Morris; Psychology Faculty Senior, Michael DeRosa; Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice, Beth Olivieri; Mary Ann Hawkes (Justice Studies), Joshua Smith; Lauris B. Whitman (Sociology), Kelly Morris; Elisa F. Bonaventura (Special Education), Sandra Turgeon; Josephine A. Stillings (Special Education), Cynthia Eldridge.

Cap and Gown

Continued from page 1

their goal "bodes well for your future."

He asked the seniors to pause "to remember those who have helped you along the way: parents, spouses, children, family, friends, teachers, professors, advisors, and others who have inspired you and helped to sustain you."

Robert L. Castiglione, professor of philosophy whom the students had invited to give the keynote address, extended the "congratulations of all of us who work at your school."

He said in preparing his address he had polled a number of people who had worked closely with the students to ask what they thought would be important to say on this occasion.

Thomas J. Lavin, director of the Counseling Center, counseled hope and ambition using an epigram that he gleaned from May Sarton: "Without wild dreams of achievement, there is no spur to even do the dishes."

Ellen Weaver, assistant director of the Office of Academic Support and Information Services (OASIS), advised: "Keep reading, keep asking questions and remember that you are not first in line."

Rene H. Perreault Jr., assistant director of Office Services, urged, "Don't make promises you cannot keep, especially to yourself. Accept yourself as you are and where you are and remember always you are someone special."

In addition to offering "a complete philosophy of life," William E. Swigart, director of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions,

wrote Castiglione that he should tell the graduating seniors to "get a job real soon, or even two jobs, and pay a lot into Social Security."

Other thoughtful suggestions came from a score of members of the RIC family and all were encouraging and congratulatory in nature.

Castiglione was introduced by Peggy E. Sandoval, class president.

Other speakers included Brian K. Baker, representing the Class of 2000, and Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, who asked those selected for inclusion to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* to stand for recognition.

John J. Saleses, vice president for academic affairs, assisted by departmental chairs or their designees, presented the departmental awards.

Nazarian led the Cap and Gown investiture.

Lavonne Nkomo, class vice president, presented the class gift, a large sign bearing the inscription "Class of 2000" that includes fiber-optic lights and a removable last digit, making it usable for future classes.

The National Anthem was sung by Christine M. Noel. Bearer of the Del Sesto Mace was Nancy Evans, chair of the Council of Rhode Island College. Musical selections were provided by the RIC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Rob Franzblau.

A reception, hosted by the president, followed on the southeast lawn of Roberts Hall.

Photos by
Gordon E. Rowley

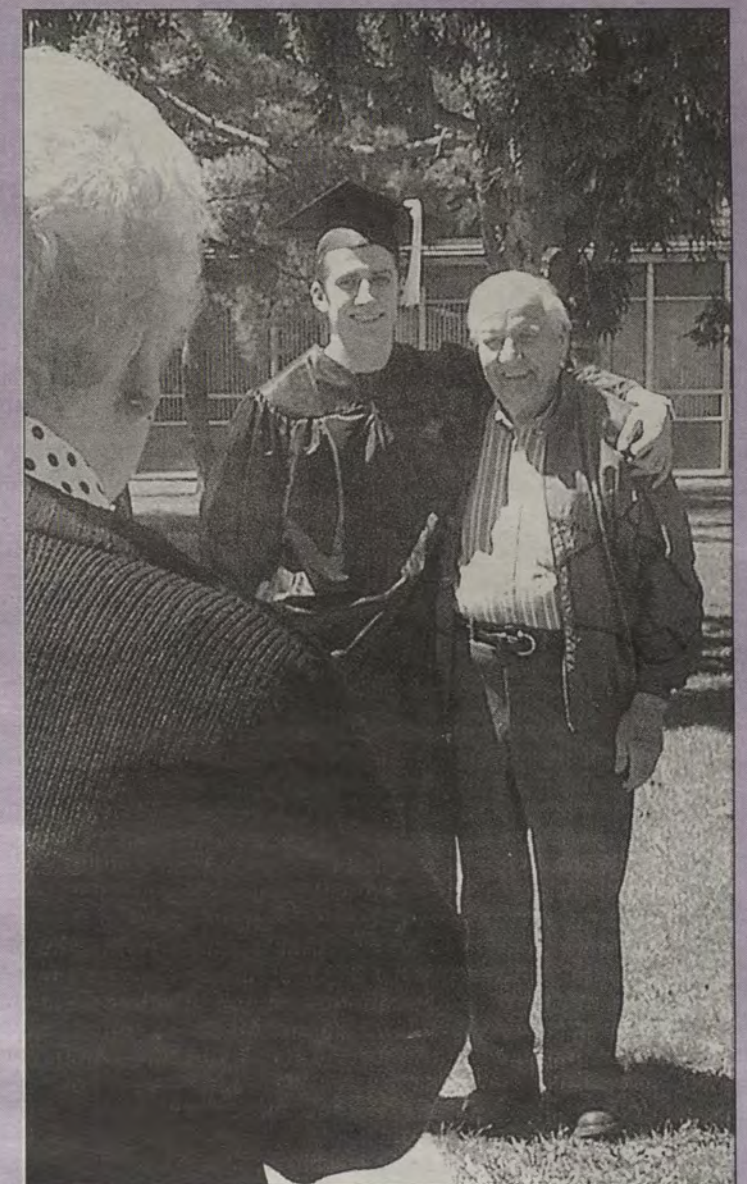


PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Graduate Eric Greenland poses with his grandfather Henry Greenland, while grandmother Evelyn snaps a photo.

Commencement—

Continued from page 1

the development of national education goals.

As a coalition builder, Ambach has led the development of such collaborations as the Task Force on Increasing Minority Teachers; Investment 21, a coalition that analyzed the nation's future investment needs for education and job training; the Consortium on Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization; and the Education First Alliance, a group of elementary, secondary, and higher education leaders who join in advocating for the federal support of education.

Ambach began his career as a teacher of history and civics at the junior high school level in East Williston, N.Y. and came to prominence through his active involvement with the New York State Teachers' Association. Shortly thereafter, Ambach went to Washington where he served as program planning and legislative specialist for the U.S. Education Commissioner in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations during the era when most of the major federal education acts were developed. From 1977-1987, Ambach was the New York state commissioner of education and president of the University of the State of New York. During his tenure as commissioner of the largest state education agency in the country, Ambach is credited with developing and implementing the nation's most comprehensive school reform act at that time, the Regents Action Plan, which established the most rigorous diploma standards in the nation. In addition, Ambach's commitment to arts education led to the establishment of the first requirement for all middle and high school students to pass arts courses in order to receive a diploma.

On the national level, he has been a member of the Arts Education Standards Committee and was a leading advocate of including arts education in the National Education Goals. Ambach holds a B.A. in American studies from Yale University, a M.A.T. history from Harvard University, and a certificate of advanced study in education administration, also from Harvard.

Millard D. Fuller Doctorate of Humanities

Fuller, an attorney originally from Lanett, Ala., has become one of the foremost housing advocates in the world. He is the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, which he established together with his wife Linda in 1977. The organization is headquartered in Americus, Ga. Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, grass-roots interdenominational organization devoted to the elimination of substandard housing for those living in poverty.

Today, there are over 1,200 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity throughout the United States and around the

world, including four chapters in Rhode Island. The Greater Providence Chapter works with the Rhode Island College Habitat for Humanity, which was recognized last December as an official student organization. Habitat volunteers have built homes for over 85,000 families in need in more than



LUTHER H. BLOUNT

1,500 U.S. cities and 60 other countries, providing decent, affordable shelter for more than 425,000 people worldwide. The organization is now one of the top 20 h o u s e builders in the United

States and the largest among all non-profits.

From humble beginnings in Alabama, Fuller became a self-made millionaire by the age of 29. A graduate of Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and the University of Alabama Law School at Tuscaloosa, he and a college friend began a marketing firm while still in school. Even as his business prospered, however, Miller's satisfaction with his success declined. Re-evaluating their lives, Fuller and his wife decided to sell all their possessions, give the money to the poor, and begin searching for a new focus.

This search led them to Koinonia Farm, a Christian community, where the Fullers initiated a ministry in housing. The concept was to assist low-income families build their own homes, with the promise that the homeowners would then assist others in building their homes. Modest payments were channeled back into a central fund for the construction of still more homes. In 1973 the Fullers moved to Africa to test this model outside the United States. The project, begun in Zaire, proved successful and in 1976 the Fullers moved back to the U.S. to found Habitat for Humanity International.

Fuller has written six books, including *A Simple, Decent Place to Live*, *The Theology of the Hammer*, *The Excitement is Building* (co-authored with Linda Fuller), *No More Shacks!*, *Love in the Mortar Joints*, and *Bokotola*. He received the Medal of Freedom in 1996, was named Builder of the Year for 1995 by *Professional Builder* magazine, and has received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from both the State of Georgia and the King Center. He and his wife are also recipients of the 1994 Harry S Truman Public Service Award.

Other honorary degree recipients for the 2000 commencement season are: Luther H. Blount, Barnaby Evans, and Edward J. Liston.

Luther H. Blount Doctorate of Commercial Science

Environmentalist, entrepreneur, shipbuilder, inventor, beekeeper, oyster farmer: these are but a few of the hats worn by Luther H. Blount, 83, of

preparation for the climb."

Will he go on and eventually tackle Mt. Everest?

Probably not. Climbing Everest requires three months of time and \$70,000 hard cash. But this summer he is looking forward to climbing Alaska's Mt. McKinley, at 20,320 feet, the highest peak in North America. Then there is always Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina. It's 23,000 feet and ...

Stay tuned!

*Photo and text
by Gordon E. Rowley*



BARNABY EVANS

Warren. While his formal education ended with an associate's degree in mechanical design from the Wentworth Institute of Technology in 1937, his knack for problem solving and workaholic nature have brought him great success.

While still in high school, he designed his first boat, a kayak for duck hunters. Later, as an engineering student, he tackled a production problem for his older brother, who had founded the Blount Seafood Co. and needed a way to process clams in bulk to fulfill a contract with the Campbell Soup

Co. Blount's invention was successful and the company earned a million dollars — a tidy sum back in the 1930s.

After serving in World War II, Blount returned to Warren in 1946 to found the Blount Marine Corp. Blount Marine specialized in building working boats such as tugs, ferries, short-haul freighters, cable boats, and more recently, dinner boats and coastal cruise ships. One of his more famous vessels was *Miss Liberty*, which began plying tourists to the Statue of Liberty in 1953.

A prolific inventor, Blount currently holds 21 U.S. patents, ranging from innovative marine propulsion systems and hull designs to an effective "pint-a-flush" toilet that has been widely adopted by recreational boaters, thereby helping to protect the quality of fragile coastal environments throughout the world. He also designed and built the first dinner boat in the United States, therein launching an entirely new industry.

An adventurer who had long delighted in taking friends on recreational coastal cruises, Blount turned this hobby into a cruise business which he capitalized by selling five of his patents for \$50,000 back in the 1960s. This company would later become the American Canadian Caribbean Line.

True to his roots, Blount worked with the Department of Environmental Management in 1979 to distribute four million oysters into Narragansett Bay; in 1999 he founded the "Renew the Resources of the Bay Foundation" to foster and support development of marine resources in Narragansett Bay. Blount has received numerous awards from technical, environmental, business, and industry groups and is a member of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

Barnaby Evans Doctorate of Fine Arts

This California native with a background in environmental science and ecology came to Providence in 1972 to attend Brown University, promptly fell in love with the city, and made it his home. While best known as the creator of WaterFire Providence, Evans is also a leading historical preservationist and photographer. He is one of the originators of the Providence Banner Trail and the driving force behind the restoration of the 96-year old Regent Avenue Elementary School in the Mt. Pleasant section of Providence, which Evans and other artists purchased in 1990 to develop into artists' condominiums.

WaterFire Providence, his best known work to date, made its debut as a part of First Night 1995 to help celebrate the moving of the rivers in Providence but also, in Evans' mind, as a symbol of the rebirth of his adopted city. Evans created the piece in such a way that it would bring together the senses of sound, sight, and smell, evoking in each person a different reaction — a reaction which



EDWARD J. LISTON

was calculated to change throughout the event as sounds and sights changed.

WaterFire Providence which is almost entirely underwritten by private funds, has not only brought the community together by enlivening the city after dark, but has also attracted many business sponsors and helped to promote Providence as a destination city for tourists and business conventions.

More recent works by Evans include "Rikyu's Second Dream," a 1999 installation at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and an upcoming installation entitled "Moving Water," for the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art's Vita Brevis series. Evans has received the David E.

Sweet Leadership Award from Leadership Rhode Island, the International First Place Programming Award of First Night International, and the Renaissance Award from the City of Providence.

Edward J. Liston Doctorate of Public Service

Edward J. Liston is recognized as one of the nation's most influential community college leaders. Since 1978 he has served as president of the Community College of Rhode Island as it evolved from a small traditional junior college into the largest two-year institution of its kind in New England. A son of immigrant Irish parents, Liston is a native of Westchester County, N.Y. and is a product of public higher education. He holds an MBA from Ball State University in Indiana and a B.S. from the State University of New York, which he attended on the GI Bill following military service in Europe. He served as chair of the Division of Business and Economics for Rockland Community College in New York, was the founding president of Housatonic Community College in Connecticut, and served as president of Pierce College in Los Angeles prior to his arrival in Rhode Island.

Among his accomplishments: the renaming of the institution (formerly, Rhode Island Junior College) in 1980 which helped to elevate its status while also redefining its mission; the establishment in 1990 of a third major campus in Providence and satellite campuses throughout the state; a major expansion of the Knight Campus in Warwick (under way); and a proposal to establish a permanent campus in Newport (subject to a public referendum in November 2000).

Liston gained national attention by developing transfer agreements with some 75 four-year institutions so that CCRI graduates could seamlessly pursue a baccalaureate degree; most of these students choose to attend RIC. CCRI's enrollment of over 30,000 students in a wide variety of degree and non-degree programs is testimony to Liston's commitment to access and opportunity for non-traditional, underprepared, and part-time students and emblematic of Liston's commitment to keeping tuition and fees affordable.

Liston has also served as chair of the YMCA Tower, Junior Achievement of Rhode Island, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and is a founding member of the Central Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. He was twice elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges, served as chair of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, was Secretary/Treasurer of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and serves on the Board of Visitors of the Community College of the Air Force. Liston will retire from the presidency of CCRI in June 2000.

Where are they now?

Continued from page 1

summit," he said.

Why does he climb mountains? "The adventure of it," he answered. Traveling to exotic places (The climb on Kilimanjaro was followed by a three-day safari on the Serengeti Plain.) Meeting all kinds of "wonderful people," some of whom become life-long friends. But perhaps the greatest draw is the physical challenge.

"It's you against Nature," Warren explained. "I have a healthy respect for Nature and I know I'm no match for Her, but I love the training and

Athletics

From the athletic director's desk



Donald E. Tencher
Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Recreation

missed.

- The Hall of Fame committee finalized its first induction class in the new century. Nine former student-athletes or coaches were selected for induction. The Hall of Fame selection process is ongoing and the committee welcomes names to add to a list it is compiling. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting Scott Gibbons at 401-456-8516.

This year's class will be inducted at a ceremony during Homecoming Weekend Oct. 13-14. A list of inductees will be featured in the next issue of *What's News*.

- Congratulations to the women's softball team for a great year. Going into the conference championship, it was seeded third, just missing second. We wish the Anchorwomen good luck in post-season play.

- Congratulations to the women's outdoor track and field team and the men's tennis team that just missed winning the Conference championship and finished second. Great job!

- Congratulations to head softball coach Maria Morin, who is being inducted into the Classical High School Hall of Fame.

- It was a great day last Wednesday at the Rhode Island State House as the Board of Governors for Higher Education honored the outstanding scholar-athletes from each of the three state institutions. Our honorees are listed in an article on this page.

- California here they come! The RIC women's basketball team will be fundraising over the next few months to play in California during the first week in January 2001. In addition to cheering on the women's team, there will be a number of alumni events slated. More information to come in future issues and through the alumni office.

- The last weekend in April was a busy one as 6,000 Rhode Island Girl Scouts attended World Fest hosted by RIC and centered around the RIC athletic facilities. In addition, 800 female basketball players were on campus playing in an invitational basketball tournament. Keep those potential students coming.

- The RIC Sports Camps are filling up rapidly but there are spots remaining. More information can be obtained by calling 401-456-8007.

This is my last column for the academic year. I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. If anyone's travels take them near the RIC campus this summer, please be sure to look us up. Good luck to all our graduates and we'll see you in the fall.

- Our condolences go out to the family of the late Bob Nolan '66, MEd '70. Bob was an all-round great guy. He was a great sport's fan and very loyal to his alma mater, Rhode Island College. He was a lifetime teacher in Johnston and writer for a golf magazine. He will be

Lavigne and Cook selected as Hetherman and Murphy award winners

by Scott Gibbons
Sports Information Director

Senior student-athletes Jeff Lavigne and Jen Cook were recently chosen to receive the John E. Hetherman and Helen M. Murphy Awards, respectively. The awards are based not only on athletic prowess, but also on community and campus involvement.

The Hetherman Award was established in 1958 and sponsored by the RIC Class of 1940 to honor its classmate, Jay Hetherman. Hetherman, while a student, played varsity basketball and baseball for two years. He was also active in the Drama Club and took part in all "stunt night" activities and major productions. During World War II, Hetherman became a naval aviator, receiving his wings in Jacksonville, Fla. in 1942. Approximately one year later, while returning from flying a rescue mission in the South Pacific, he crashed and lost his life, leaving an enviable college and service career behind him.

The student who receives the Hetherman Award must be a male student-athlete who participates in intercollegiate athletics, a good student and have demonstrated interest and participation in campus activities.

Glendale's Jeff Lavigne, a senior co-captain, is one of RIC's all-time greatest men's soccer players. He recently signed on to play professionally with the Rhode Island Stingrays.

He was named the men's soccer team's MVP in 1999. It was the sec-

ond time Lavigne has received this award, having also garnered the squad's MVP honors as a junior in 1998.

Lavigne was named Second Team All-New England and First Team All-Little East in 1999. He leaves RIC as the Anchormen's 14th all-time leading scorer with 15 career goals and 11 career assists for 41 career points. He was named First Team All-Little East Conference as a junior in 1998 and Second Team All-Little East as a sophomore in 1997.

Lavigne is a justice studies major and a 1995 graduate of Burrillville High School.

The Murphy Award was established in 1979 and sponsored by the faculty of the

Henry Barnard School to honor an outstanding RIC senior woman athlete. The award is named for Helen M. Murphy, a graduate of RIC in 1939, who was a member of the faculty for 38 years and taught at the Henry Barnard School, beginning in 1941, until her retirement in 1979.

West Warwick's Jen Cook is one of the finest female athletes ever to play at Rhode Island College.

She is a four-year letter winner on both the women's basketball and softball teams. She was named the women's basketball team's MVP in



JEN COOK



JEFF LAVIGNE

1999-00. Cook leaves RIC having played in 103 games with 1,129 points, 584 rebounds, 154 assists and 159 steals in her career. She averaged 10.9 points, 5.7 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 1.5 steals per game for her career.

She is seventh all-time at RIC in career scoring and fifth in career rebounding. She is one of only four players in RIC women's basketball history with 1,000 or more points and 500 or more rebounds. Cook is third all-time with a .751 career free throw percentage and tied for fourth with 103 games played.

As a shortstop on RIC's softball team, she is a three-time All-Little East Conference selection. She currently ranks in the top five in career batting, hits, RBI, doubles and runs scored.

Cook is an elementary education major and a 1996 graduate of West Warwick High School.

Sports Roundup

Baseball

Head Coach Scott Perry's team is 6-20 overall and 2-6 in the Little East Conference. Third baseman Scott Virgulak is the club's top hitter, posting a .386 average in 26 games.

Softball

Head Coach Maria Morin's team is 18-14 overall and 6-4 in the Little East Conference. First baseman Rachel Medeiros is batting .510 with a team-high 19 RBI and 25 runs scored.

Men's Tennis

Head Coach Dick Ernst's team is 5-6 overall and 1-1 against Little East Conference opposition. Joe Testa owns a 7-4 record at both number one singles and doubles.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field team took part in the Connecticut College Invitational on April 8. Dan Fero paced the men's squad, placing 11th in the steeplechase event. Melinda Roczynski continued her dominance of the high jump event, placing first at 5'03.00".

Annual Senior Show

Bannister Gallery marks the end of an era

Rhode Island College Department of Art's Class of 2000 will be the last artists to exhibit in the Bannister Gallery at the Art Center location where it has operated for the past 22 years, reports Dennis O'Malley, gallery director.

The gallery is being relocated over the summer to the site of the former offices of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance adjacent to the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

This transition will enable both a greater exposure for the exhibition program and the expansion of teaching space in the Department of Art, says O'Malley.

Beginning with a few years of exhibits in the Adams Library in the mid-1970s, the gallery was relocated in 1978 to the Art Center building when it was reconfigured

from a previous role as the College's cafeteria.

The gallery was dedicated in November 1978 in memory of Edward Mitchell Bannister, an

African-American artist who had lived in Providence. It opened with the milestone exhibition "Four From Providence: Black Artists in the Social Landscape" which was

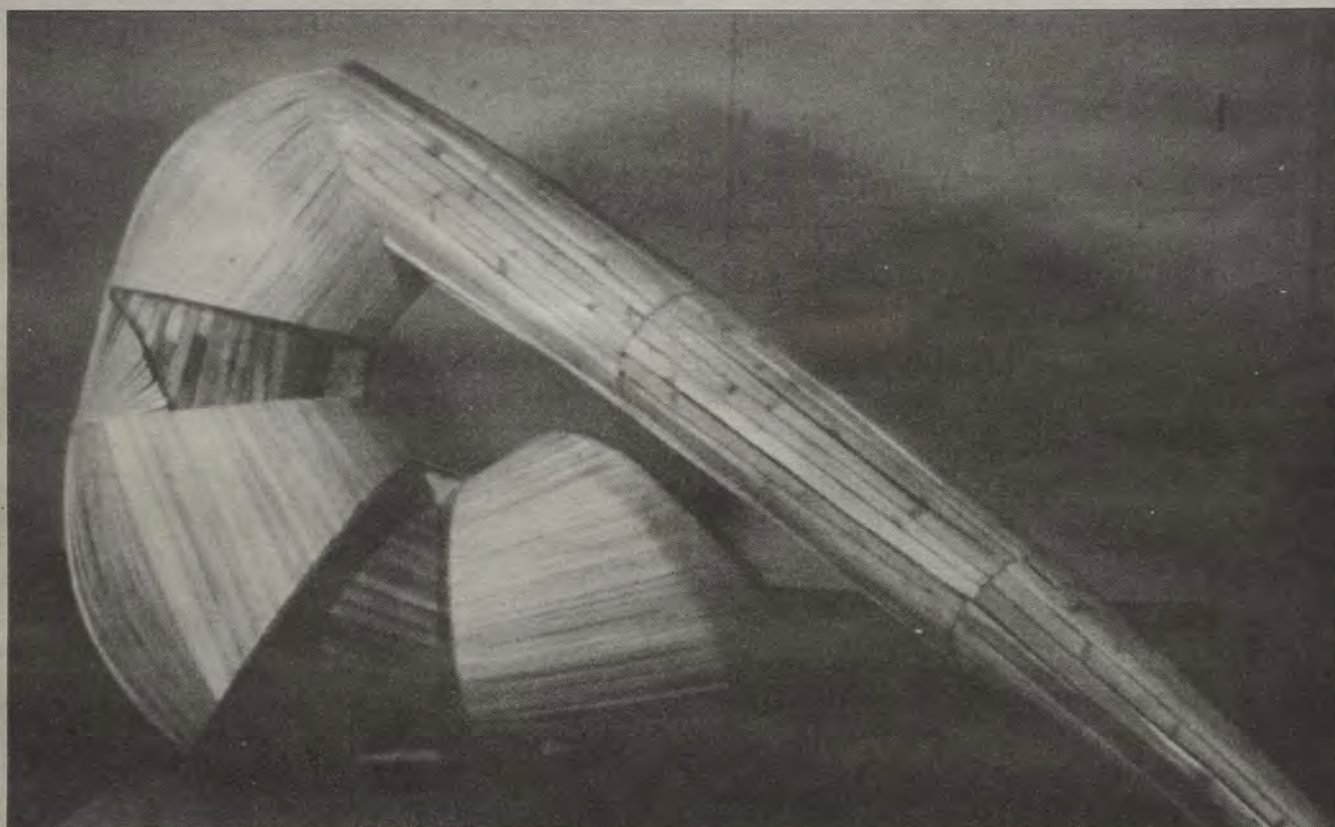
Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 6 - 9 p.m.

curated by now retired faculty member, art professor Lawrence Sykes.

In the intervening years, over 200 exhibitions and presentations, exposing and promoting the work and talents of well over a thousand artists, have taken place there, says O'Malley.

He invites members of the College community to "join the Department of Art and the fine arts seniors of 2000 in celebrating this occasion, as we reflect on the past and look to the future" by attending the Senior Show which opens on Thursday, May 11, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The exhibit will continue through May 20.



ANNUAL SENIOR SHOW at Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery runs from May 11 to 20. The work above — by 1998 award winner Jeffrey Begnoche — is untitled laminated and fabricated wood 9' x 5' x 5'. The show is free and open to the public.

Allen sheds new light on 'Finding the Walls of Troy'

Susan Heuck Allen, author of *Finding the Walls of Troy*, described the machinations of Herman Schliemann, who took credit for discovering ancient Troy while the man in the forefront of the actual search, Frank Calvert, was relegated to a footnote in history, in a talk sponsored by the Friends of Adams Library and Rhode Island Women in the Arts April 11 at Rhode Island College.



Speaking in the Forman Center, Allen, the wife of RIC faculty member Peter S. Allen, professor of anthropology, described the long history of Troy's discovery and discussed the "unscrupulous behavior" of Schliemann as he sought to wrest the prize of Troy from Calvert.

Calvert, who owned half the land on which Troy eventually was found,

had informed Schliemann about the site and persuaded him to dig there.

In his introduction of the speaker, Richard A. Lobban, professor of anthropology, pointed out the detective skills that Allen had employed in correcting the historical record.

"Dr. Allen has written a wonderful history of Troy and has examined the important role of ethics in archeological digs. In a delightful manner, she has unraveled the mysteries dealing with Troy's discovery," he said.

Her talk, accompanied by slides of maps, photographs and drawings, brought the story of archeological activity at the site up to the present.

Allen's book has been selected by the History Book Club as its book of the month, reported William Oehlkers, president of the Friends of Adams Library.

Allen, who holds a doctorate from Brown University in classical archaeology, is a visiting lecturer at Smith College and Tufts University and has taught at Brown and Yale.



THE MARCINIAK FAMILY gathers for a photograph with College President John Nazarian just after a concert honoring the late Francis Marciniak April 28 in Roberts Hall auditorium. Marciniak was director of bands at RIC from 1972-1996 and conductor of The American Band from its rebirth in 1978 to 1996. The concert featured the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble and The American Band. Above, Marciniak's widow, Dorothy, stands with (l to r) her son Craig, his wife Pam and Dorothy's son Andrew. The three children are (l to r) Julie, Sarah and Alissa, daughters of Craig and Pam. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Performing Arts Summer Camp July 10-28 at RIC

"Experiencing the Performing Arts," the annual three-week Summer Performing Arts Camp at Rhode Island College for students in grades 7-12, will run July 10-28 in the Recreation Center.

Classes in music, theatre and dance run Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"It's a chance for young performing arts students to be taught by professionals in the area who are practicing their craft. Faculty will be made up of working artists, includ-

ing those from Trinity Repertory Theatre and the RIC performing arts faculty," says Bill Wilson of the RIC music, theatre and dance department.

Tuition is \$350 plus a \$30 non-refundable application fee. Application deadline is May 21. For more information or application, call 456-8814 or write to Wilson, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence 02908.

Alum invited to Cannes Film Festival

Hollywood screenwriter Carl Dupre '90 has been invited to show his latest film, *Broken Down*, at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival this spring.

He co-wrote the film's script with David Feloman, who also is the film's director.

The story is about New York City characters who are compulsive gamblers. They get in trouble with a bookie and resort to very desperate measures to pay off a bet. One of the gamblers becomes alienated in the pursuit to break even and falls in love along the way with tragic consequences all the way around.

The film had its premiere April 15 in Los Angeles.

Dupre, a Rhode Island College Honor Roll inductee last year, had his first film, *Detroit Rock City*, premiere last April and then released to all 50 states. At that time, a full-page ad for the film appeared in the *New York Times*.

That film is a comedy set in 1978 wherein four teenage KISS fans have their loyalty tested after losing the tickets to see their favorite rock band in the Motor City.

Dupre was the subject of a *What's News* feature article Feb. 1, 1999.

RIC alums help make Trinity's 'My Fair Lady' a stunning production

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

"My Fair Lady is fabulous theater" said Observer Publications of the current Trinity Repertory Company production. "Trinity gives My Fair Lady glorious new life," said the *Providence Journal*.

And an integral part of that former Broadway blockbuster musical by Lerner and Loewe is performed by Rhode Island College graduate Tim Robertson '92 who, with Jay Atwood, plays piano on center stage for most of the show.

"It's hard not to notice we're there," says Robertson, who currently serves as box office manager for the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts at RIC.

"The actors interact with us and we have a few bits with them during the show," he says.

This is the first show at Trinity for Robertson, who resides in Cumberland, although in 1988 he was subscription manager for Trinity.

"Right from the get-go," wrote William K. Gale for the *Providence Journal*, "you can see that the luminous, electrifying My Fair Lady...is going to be a new deal."

"The (Trinity) setting is expansive. It says THEATRE in its far-ranging multi-level design," says Laurence J. Sasso Jr. for the *Observer*. It "embraces the senses," he says.

Director Amanda Dehnert's reworking of the 1956 mega-hit, based on author George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, finds the chorus turning Trinity's upstairs stage into their dressing room, changing clothes and warming up, turning backstage to onstage.

The 28-member ensemble includes a 16-member chorus,



Above: TWIN PIANOS at center stage in the Trinity Repertory Company's production of "My Fair Lady" are manned by RIC's Tim Robertson '92 (left) and Jay Atwood. (Trinity Photo)

At right: Melissa D'Amico '98 as she appeared in the RIC Theatre production of "My Fair Lady" in 1995. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

one of whose members is RIC graduate Melissa D'Amico '98, who says, "Trinity did a whole new take on My Fair Lady. It's like a different show."

D'Amico, who's "having so much fun," played the leading role of Eliza Doolittle for the 1995 RIC Theatre production of the classic show.

Julie Andrews played the part on Broadway with Rex Harrison playing the curmudgeonly language professor Henry Higgins who strives to transform the Cockney flower girl into a "proper lady."

One of America's most popular musicals, featuring such unforgettable tunes as "I Could Have Danced All Night," "The Rain in Spain" and "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," *My Fair Lady* broke the record for longest running musical on Broadway with 2,717 performances.

My Fair Lady opened at Trinity April 7 and will run at least until May 28, which already is a one-week extension, says Robertson, who adds, "They are already talking about additional extensions."

For ticket or schedule information, contact Trinity Rep at 401-351-4242.



'Assistive Technology' demonstrated at student seminar



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: Robert Pires, student member of the Assistive Technology Advisory Board, demonstrates the Voyager XL, a closed circuit television for low-vision people which magnifies documents on an accompanying TV screen. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

Rhode Island College held a seminar for students April 26 in Adams Library to explain "assistive technology" and demonstrate its devices.

Assistive technology is described as "applications of technology (software and hardware, low and high tech) which can increase access, support personal independence and otherwise benefit persons with disabilities."

Antoinette Gomes, interim director of Student Life, said this was the first in a series of planned seminars that would also include faculty and staff.

The seminar, sponsored by the Offices of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Student Life, featured a number of speakers, including Gomes, Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs; James R. Cornelison Jr., assistant vice president for administration and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator; Sara Weiss, peer advisor for students with disabilities; Betsy Dalton, assistant professor of special education, and Robert Pires, a student member of the

Assistive Technology Advisory Board.

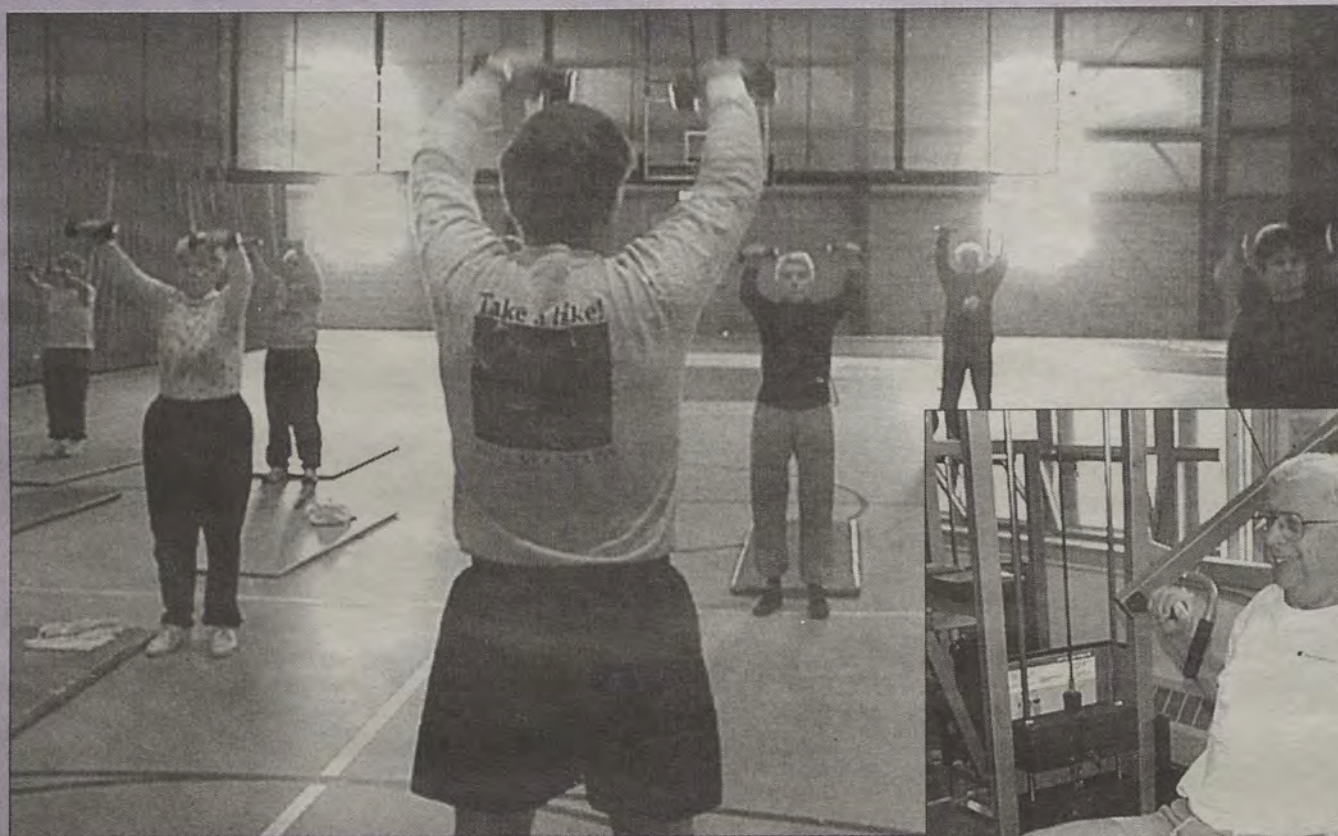
Other speakers included Grace Cabral, an independent living counselor who spoke on "Assistive Technology at School, at Work" and Lee Walker, a RIC student who spoke on "The Pros and Cons of Dictation Software."

Pires demonstrated the assistive technology software.

Two new courses in assistive technology this summer were announced: Special Education 380: Basic Principles and Practices in Assistive Technology which is a 30-hour course for two credits, and Special Education 480: Augmentative Communication Technology which is a 15-hour course carrying one graduate credit.

Both courses will be given at the TechACCESS Center of Rhode Island on 110 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, the first from July 5-14; the second from July 17-21. For more information, contact Betsy Dalton at 401-456-8072 or email at <edalt@ric.edu>.

Former 'couch potato' senior citizens getting 'in the pink' of health thanks to the Recreation Center —



BEGINNING RITUAL: John Taylor (back to camera) conducts exercises for Club 50.

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Maybe American's children don't get enough physical exercise these days, but a group of older adults at the Rhode Island College Recreation Center sure do.

With tongue-in-cheek, they call themselves "Club 50" but their ages range from somewhere over 50 to 81.

John S. Taylor, assistant director of physical fitness and exercise, who guides them through a regimen of bends and stretches, squats and turns, rest and walking, assures that "some of them outshine the youngsters. They can walk circles around the young kids."

The 18-member group, coming mostly from the surrounding neigh-

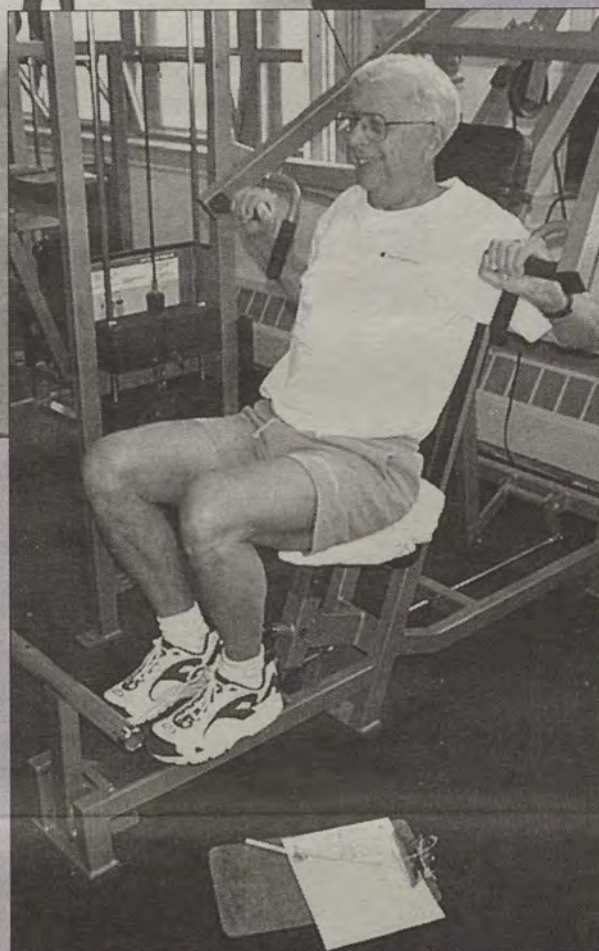
borhood, meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. This is the third year they've been coming for floor exercises through which Taylor guides them with patience and a good deal of humor.

He trades quips with the "seniors" about real or feigned aches and pains and they give as good as they get, often drawing chuckles and laughs throughout the session.

Taylor provides them with information about physical fitness and good health and works on occasion with their doctors to assure certain health-related problems are being addressed properly.

Group members regularly use the Recreation Center weight room with its stationary bicycles, and work with Janice H. Fifer, assistant director of aquatics, at the Center's near-Olympic-size pool.

The experience is not only good for their health but lends to a healthy



PUMPING IRON: Smithfield resident Adam Bagus, who just retired, works out in the weight room.

never did any exercise. It has really helped me a lot. When I joined I couldn't even stand on my toes. I had pain in my knees. Now the pain has disappeared."

Russell Coady of Cranston says he had gone to his doctor and "got good and bad marks" about his physical condition. "After I started coming here, I got all good marks" over the improvement in his vital signs. Cholesterol and blood pressure readings improved, for instance.

Frank Abbate of Cranston reported he experienced the same results after having had open-heart surgery. "I've been coming here for three years and my vital signs are all good now."

"I had to get away from being a couch potato," says Alice Canning of North Providence, who comes to every session with her husband, James. "It's a very good program," he assures.

Taylor says the Recreation Center conducted an Open House three years ago to entice people to join the exercise program. "Then it sort of spread by word of mouth. People who didn't have access to a senior center started to come in," he says.

Taylor also gives credit to Evelyn Fagnoli, former Providence city council member for the fifth ward, for helping form the group.

"She was trying to get seniors in the ward involved in an active life style and sent them to us," he says.

Anyone can join the group by becoming a regular member of the Recreation Center. The annual membership fee "covers everything," says Taylor.

Call 401-456-8400 or just stop by the Center and sign up.

camaraderie between people who have become good friends.

"They enjoy themselves," observes Taylor.

"I think it's fantastic," says Sandra Webb of Providence. "I just started about a month ago because I



WHO'S WHO INDUCTEE Carolina Gazzolo, a senior management major from Mansfield, Mass., accepts a certificate from College President John Nazarian signifying her selection to the 2000 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* as Gary Penfield, vice president for student affairs, looks on. The occasion was a reception April 19 in the Student Union ballroom honoring the 76 RIC students selected this year. (What's News Photo by George LaTour)

Sports Events

Baseball

Fri.	May 12 Little East Conference Tournament	TBA
Sat.	May 13 Little East Conference Tournament	TBA

Women's Track and Field

Sat.	May 13 at ECAC Div. III Championships ^	10:00 a.m.
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Home games/meets in bold

* Little East Conference game

^ hosted by Williams College

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